

CTTAB 2003Minutes

March 11, 2003

Meeting Minutes

City of Seattle, Board Room, 27th Floor

Key Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Board Members

Jason Bennett

Mike Daum

Mike Donlin

Robin Oppenheimer

Melinda Partin

Ann Robinson

Brad Stilwell

Jeff Techico

Harriet Wasserman\

Guests:

Jessica Levy

Daniel Hannah

Rob Jacobs

Mike Mullarkey, MD

Bram Wessel

Staff

Jill Novik

Tony Perez

Mary Pat DiLeva

Alex Field, Mayor's Staff

Rona Zevin

1. Introduction of new members, Announcements, Agenda Approval; Review of Minutes:

Members introduced themselves.

A letter from a SCAN producer was routed to members for their review.
Jeff will work with Jill to schedule an orientation for new board members.

Steve Hawley had to cancel his scheduled presentation at the meeting due to a personal emergency.

Mike Donlin noted that the very large National Educational Computing Conference will be held here in June.

The Alliance for Community Media Conference will be held in Tacoma July 9-12.

The minutes were edited and approved.

2. Presentation: Get Engaged – Alex Field & Jessica Levy; Future Technology – Steve Hawley

Get Engaged – CTTAB was one of the first boards to embrace the Get Engaged Program. The program's aim is to get more young adults (18 – 25 years old) involved in City government through participation on the various boards and commissions. The program, which is a collaboration between the City and YMCA, currently has 13 boards with seats designated for program participants. The Mayor's office would like CTTAB's support and participation in the third year of the program if funded. *The board voted to express support for and encourage continuation of the Get Engaged Program.*

3. Report on FCC Hearing:

Robin, Jill, and Daniel Hannah reported on the FCC's media consolidation hearings in Seattle; the HUB auditorium was full but the number of attendees was underreported by local media. There were three panel discussions: one about conglomerates taking money out of local areas and the effects of media consolidation on the news; the second on the effect of consolidation on music and entertainment; and the third about the effects of media consolidation on localism. Most of the opinions expressed by attendees opposed further media consolidation. The two commissioners in attendance seemed very interested in what the public was saying and said people in Seattle seemed to understand the complexities of the issue. If there are tapes of the hearings available we will try to get them on the Seattle Channel. May 1st is the expected decision date and members are encouraged to comment to the FCC. The Council and Mayor have passed a resolution opposing the consolidation; it was suggested that OCC post something to the CTTAB website indicating the FCC is taking comments.

4. Committee Reports:

E-government/Interactive Committee – Brad reiterated the discussion from the last meeting. He didn't have an opportunity to prepare the written comments as promised at the last meeting, but *will write up the major points, including the Seattle Channel's mission, and circulate it to members the week of March 17th.*

Rona announced that Mike James has been hired by the Seattle Channel to do civic/governmental show.

Community Technology – The committee will meet on March 18th at SCCC;

Harriet has calendared matching fund events.

Cable Office Subcommittee – If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, contact Tony.

5. Cable Office Report:

Renewal: The City's Office of Cable Communications (OCC) is Seattle's local franchising authority. Cable office staff negotiate with and monitor cable operator activities in Seattle and work with franchise renewals. Franchises are awarded for 10 years; three years before the franchise will expire the renewal process begins. Staff are currently developing the Comcast franchise renewal work plan; it will be presented to the Mayor, Council and CTTAB. We will also be asking Council for a resolution to commence the ascertainment process pertaining to cable needs.

Brad asked when CTTAB's work will begin. Tony replied that it will likely begin in the summer on the needs assessment, including co-sponsoring public hearings with OCC, but the work will pick up in 2004.

Boundary Issues: Cable Office staff are preparing an ordinance to correct a franchise map error; an area that should be part of Millennium's franchise area is shown on the map as belonging to Comcast.

Two years ago a franchise was awarded to a now bankrupt operator Western Integrated Network. As part of that legislation, Council adopted a transition rule that any cable operator serving the downtown business district needs a franchise which has build out requirements. We are currently working with cable operators to develop a map to determine which cable operator should serve which buildings on an equitable basis. It is very expensive to serve downtown because cable has to be underground. We will provide ongoing reports to CTTAB as work progresses on the map, with expected completion of legislation in the fall.

Hiring process: Fifty six applications were received for Lynne Masters' job. Interviews will be held within the next couple of weeks with someone hired by the end of April.

FCC: The FCC ruled on unbundled network elements; they decided to leave control with the states. Within the next two to three months the FCC will probably promulgate rules for the extent of local and state regulation over cable modem service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.